

Application No. 10/780,522
Docket No. 2004U001.US
Reply to Office Action Dated August 25, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

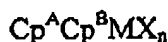
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a catalyst, comprising:
first combining mineral oil with one or more liquid alkanes having three or more carbon atoms to form a mixture;
followed by combining with the mixture a spray dried catalyst system comprising one or more components selected from the group consisting of metallocenes, non-metallocenes, and a combination thereof to form a slurry.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the viscosity of the slurry is reduced by at least 30 percent due to the addition of the one or more liquid alkanes.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the catalyst system is a mixed catalyst system comprising at least one metallocene component and at least one non-metallocene component.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the slurry comprises up to 20 percent by weight of the one or more liquid alkanes.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the slurry comprises between about 2 percent by weight and 15 percent by weight of the one or more liquid alkanes.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the slurry comprises up to 50 percent by weight of the catalyst system.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the slurry comprises at least 10 percent by weight of the catalyst system.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the slurry comprises from 5 percent by weight to about 35 percent by weight of the catalyst system.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the slurry comprises from 10 percent by weight to about 30 percent by weight of the catalyst system.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the metallocene, when present, is represented by the formula:



wherein:

M is a metal atom;

Cp^{A} and Cp^{B} are each independently an unsubstituted or substituted cyclic ring group;

X is a leaving group; and

n is zero or an integer from 1 to 4.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein Cp^{A} and Cp^{B} are each independently selected from the group consisting of cyclopentadienyl, indenyl, combinations thereof, and derivatives thereof.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein M is zirconium.
13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of amines, phosphones, ethers, carboxylates, dienes, hydrocarbyl radicals having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, hydrides, halogens, combinations thereof, and derivatives thereof, and wherein n is 2.

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14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-metallocene, when present, is represented by the formula:



wherein M is a metal;

X is independently selected from the group consisting of halogen ions, hydrides, C₁ to C₁₂ alkyls, C₂ to C₁₂ alkenyls, C₆ to C₁₂ aryls, C₇ to C₂₀ alkylaryls, C₁ to C₁₂ alkoxys, C₆ to C₁₆ aryloxys, C₇ to C₁₈ alkylaryloxys, C₁ to C₁₂ fluoroalkyls, C₆ to C₁₂ fluoroaryls, C₁ to C₁₂ heteroatom-containing hydrocarbons, halogenated C₆ to C₁₆ aryloxys, and substituted derivatives thereof;

β and γ are groups that each comprise at least one Group 14 to Group 16 atom;

α is a linking moiety that forms a chemical bond to each of β and γ; and

a, b, g, and n are each integers from 1 to 4.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein M is zirconium.
16. (Currently amended) A catalyst slurry for olefin polymerization, comprising the product of:
first combining mineral oil with one or more liquid alkanes having three or more carbon atoms to form a mixture;
followed by combining with the mixture a spray dried catalyst system comprising one or more catalysts selected from the group consisting of metallocenes, non-metallocenes, and a combination thereof to form a slurry.
17. (Original) The catalyst slurry of claim 16, wherein the catalyst system further comprises one or more activators.
18. (Original) The catalyst slurry of claim 16, wherein the slurry comprises up to 20 percent by weight of the one or more liquid alkanes.

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19. (Original) The catalyst slurry of claim 16, wherein the slurry comprises between about 2 percent by weight and 15 percent by weight of the one or more liquid alkanes.
20. (Original) The catalyst slurry of claim 16, wherein the slurry comprises up to 50 percent by weight of the catalyst system.
21. (Original) The catalyst slurry of claim 16, wherein the slurry comprises at least 10 percent by weight of the catalyst system.
22. (Original) The catalyst slurry of claim 16, wherein the slurry comprises from 5 percent by weight to about 35 percent by weight of the catalyst system.
23. (Original) The catalyst slurry of claim 16, wherein the slurry comprises from 10 percent by weight to about 30 percent by weight of the catalyst system.

24. (Previously presented) The catalyst slurry of claim 16, wherein the metallocene, when present, is represented by the formula:



wherein:

M is a metal atom;

Cp^{A} and Cp^{B} are each independently an unsubstituted or substituted cyclic ring group;

X is a leaving group; and

n is zero or an integer from 1 to 4.

25. (Original) The catalyst slurry of claim 24, wherein Cp^{A} and Cp^{B} are each independently selected from the group consisting of cyclopentadienyl, indenyl, combinations thereof, and derivatives thereof.
26. (Original) The catalyst slurry of claim 24, wherein M is zirconium.

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27. (Original) The catalyst slurry of claim 24, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of amines, phosphones, ethers, carboxylates, dienes, hydrocarbyl radicals having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, hydrides, halogens, combinations thereof, and derivatives thereof, and wherein n is 2.
28. (Previously presented) The catalyst slurry of claim 16, wherein the non-metallocene, when present, is represented by the formula:



wherein M is a metal;

X is independently selected from the group consisting of halogen ions, hydrides, C₁ to C₁₂ alkyls, C₂ to C₁₂ alkenyls, C₆ to C₁₂ aryls, C₇ to C₂₀ alkylaryl, C₁ to C₁₂ alkoxys, C₆ to C₁₆ aryloxys, C₇ to C₁₈ alkylaryloxys, C₁ to C₁₂ fluoroalkyls, C₆ to C₁₂ fluoroaryl, C₁ to C₁₂ heteroatom-containing hydrocarbons, halogenated C₆ to C₁₆ aryloxys, and substituted derivatives thereof;

β and γ are groups that each comprise at least one Group 14 to Group 16 atom;

α is a linking moiety that forms a chemical bond to each of β and γ; and

a, b, g, and n are each integers from 1 to 4.

29. (Original) The catalyst slurry of claim 28, wherein M is zirconium.
30. (Currently amended) A method for olefin polymerization, comprising:
first combining mineral oil with one or more liquid alkanes having three or more carbon atoms to form a mixture;
followed by combining with the mixture a spray dried catalyst system comprising one or more catalysts selected from the group consisting of metallocenes, non-metallocenes, and a combination thereof to form a slurry; and
transferring the slurry to a gas phase reactor.

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31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the viscosity of the slurry is reduced by at least 30 percent due to the addition of the one or more liquid alkanes.
32. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the catalyst system is a mixed catalyst system comprising at least one metallocene component and at least one non-metallocene component.
33. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the slurry comprises up to 20 percent by weight of the one or more liquid alkanes.
34. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the slurry comprises up to 50 percent by weight of the catalyst system.
35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the metallocene, when present, is represented by the formula:



wherein:

M is a metal atom;

Cp^{A} and Cp^{B} are each independently an unsubstituted or substituted cyclic ring group;

X is a leaving group; and

n is zero or an integer from 1 to 4.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein Cp^{A} and Cp^{B} are each independently selected from the group consisting of cyclopentadienyl, indenyl, combinations thereof, and derivatives thereof, and wherein M is zirconium.
37. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of amines, phosphones, ethers, carboxylates, dienes, hydrocarbyl radicals having from 1 to

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20 carbon atoms, hydrides, halogens, combinations thereof, and derivatives thereof, and wherein n is 2.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the non-metallocene, when present, is represented by the formula:



wherein M is a metal;

X is independently selected from the group consisting of halogen ions, hydrides, C₁ to

C₁₂ alkyls, C₂ to C₁₂ alkenyls, C₆ to C₁₂ aryls, C₇ to C₂₀ alkylaryl, C₁ to C₁₂ alkoxys, C₆ to C₁₆ aryloxys, C₇ to C₁₈ alkylaryloxys, C₁ to C₁₂ fluoroalkyls, C₆ to C₁₂ fluoroaryls, C₁ to C₁₂ heteroatom-containing hydrocarbons, halogenated C₆ to C₁₆ aryloxys, and substituted derivatives thereof;

β and γ are groups that each comprise at least one Group 14 to Group 16 atom;

α is a linking moiety that forms a chemical bond to each of β and γ; and

a, b, g, and n are each integers from 1 to 4.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein M is zirconium.